

Public Service Medal (PSM) (continued)

New South Wales (continued)

Mrs Elizabeth CORBYN, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

For outstanding public service to environmental protection and policy reform, and natural resource management, in New South Wales.

Ms Corbyn has been committed, passionate and driven about environment protection and the conservation of our natural resources during her long public service career. She has held a range of senior positions in the NSW Government such as the Director General of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, the Director General of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Catchment Authority and as the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Murray Darling Basin Commission. As the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage she managed a budget of \$1.3 billion and 4000 staff. She played a critical and key role in the establishment of the Environment Protection Authority and in many of its landmark initiatives, such as the major reform of environmental legislation in NSW which led to the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. She was instrumental in establishing and delivering many other environmental reforms, such as policies to improve air and water quality, natural resource management and better outcomes for the protection of Aboriginal heritage, threatened species and native vegetation. Recently she was appointed by the Australian Government as the inaugural chair of the *Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development*, where she played a key role in strengthening the science underpinning regulatory decisions on coal seam gas and mining proposals, in an area of highly contested public policy, ensuring better and more transparent decisions by government authorities. Throughout her career she has always displayed the highest level of integrity and talent for nurturing and developing staff, both at a senior and junior level. As a key environmental policy leader in NSW Ms Corbyn consistently demonstrated outstanding professionalism, dedication, openness and respect, while maintaining personal and professional accountability.